

## NOAA In Your State

# Idaho

***NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.***

***The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by [congressional districts and cities or towns](#), and then [statewide programs](#).***

### Highlights of NOAA in Idaho

<a href="#">Boise Field Office</a>	Boise	ID-1
<a href="#">Fire Weather Program and Incident Meteorologist Coordination</a>	Boise	ID-1
<a href="#">NOAA Idaho National Laboratory Mesonet</a>	Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Jefferson, Madison, Minidoka counties	ID-2

The state of Idaho also has two Weather Forecasting Offices, four Labs and Field Offices, and one Habitat Focus Area.

### Weather Forecast Offices

Boise ID-1

Pocatello ID-2

National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) are staffed 24/7/365 and provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Idaho. There are 122 WFOs nationwide of which two are in Idaho. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for weather events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including wireless emergency alerts, social media, [weather.gov](http://weather.gov), and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs that strengthen working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. Forecasters provide Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site during critical emergencies such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and major recovery efforts. To gather data for forecasting and other purposes, NWS WFO staff monitor, maintain and use Automated Surface Observing Stations and Doppler Weather Radar. In addition to the WFOs, NWS operates specialized national prediction centers and regional headquarters throughout the U.S. for a total of 168 operational units. Over 85% of NWS' workforce is in the field. For current Idaho weather, visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) and, on the national map, click on the relevant county or district.

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#### **ID-1**

##### **Boise**

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - West Coast Region's Boise Office**

The Interior Columbia Basin Area Office is located in Portland, Oregon, with satellite teams in Ellensburg, Washington; La Grande, Oregon; and Salmon, Moscow, and Boise, Idaho. Our responsibilities focus on protecting species and their habitats upstream of Bonneville Dam, into the upper reaches of the Columbia and Snake rivers in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. We work to protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act by evaluating the impacts of proposed federal actions, developing and implementing recovery plans, seeking conservation partnerships with local governments and landowners, and ensuring safe fish passage through federal and some private dams.

#### **National Weather Service (NWS) - Fire Weather Program and Incident Meteorologist Coordination**

The NWS Fire Weather Program, including the coordination of NWS Incident Meteorologists (IMETs), are managed out of the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. The Fire Weather Program's objective, as mandated by Congress, is to provide fire weather forecast products and services to the fire and land management community for the protection of life and property, promotion of firefighter safety, and stewardship of America's public wildlands. In advance of an incident, NWS issues special forecasts/outlooks and warning products that highlight the onset of environmental conditions that elevate the risk for fires. Since 1928, this effort has also included providing critical on-scene support to wildfire managers via specially-trained NWS forecasters called IMETs. When a fire reaches a large enough size, IMETs are rapidly deployed to the incident site and set-up a mobile weather center to provide constant weather updates and forecast briefings to the fire incident commanders. IMETs are very important members of the firefighting team, as changes in the fires are largely due to changes in the weather.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)**- See [Page 2](#) for details.

### **[Moscow](#)**

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [West Coast Region](#) Moscow Office**

The Interior Columbia Basin Area Office is located in Portland, Oregon, with satellite teams in Ellensburg, Washington; La Grande, Oregon; and Salmon, Moscow, and Boise, Idaho. Our responsibilities focus on protecting species and their habitats upstream of Bonneville Dam, into the upper reaches of the Columbia and Snake rivers in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. We work to protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act by evaluating the impacts of proposed federal actions, developing and implementing recovery plans, seeking conservation partnerships with local governments and landowners, and ensuring safe fish passage through federal and some private dams.

### **[Murphy](#)**

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)**

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

### **[ID-2](#)**

#### **[Arco](#)**

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)**

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

### **[Idaho Falls](#)**

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [Air Resources Laboratory's Field Research Division](#)**

The Field Research Division (FRD) of NOAA's Air Resource Laboratory is located in Idaho Falls, ID. FRD conducts experiments to better understand atmospheric transport and dispersion, improves both the theory and models of air-surface exchange processes, and develops new technologies and instrumentation to carry out its mission. In a cooperative agreement with the Department of Energy, the Division supports the Idaho National Laboratory with meteorological forecasts and emergency response capabilities.

### **[Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Jefferson, Madison, Minidoka counties](#)**

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [NOAA Idaho National Laboratory Mesonet](#)**

In partnership with the Department of Energy, the Field Research Division (FRD) of the Air Resources Laboratory operates a network of 34 meteorological towers in southeastern Idaho. This network supports activities at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and is known as the NOAA/INL Mesonet. Each tower collects observations of winds, temperature, humidity, and other variables which are relayed in near real time back to FRD by a radio link. In addition to supporting the INL, the Mesonet data are also widely used by the National Weather Service, local news organizations, and agricultural entities as a source of valuable meteorological data.

## **Pocatello**

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)**- See [Page 2](#) for details.

## **Salmon**

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [West Coast Region Salmon Office](#)**

The Interior Columbia Basin Area Office is located in Portland, Oregon, with satellite teams in Ellensburg, Washington; La Grande, Oregon; and Salmon, Moscow, and Boise, Idaho. Our responsibilities focus on protecting species and their habitats upstream of Bonneville Dam, into the upper reaches of the Columbia and Snake rivers in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. We work to protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act by evaluating the impacts of proposed federal actions, developing and implementing recovery plans, seeking conservation partnerships with local governments and landowners, and ensuring safe fish passage through federal and some private dams.

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## **Statewide**

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Northwest Fisheries Science Center](#)**

The Northwest Fisheries Science Center's headquarters (in Seattle, WA) was established in 1931 as the first government laboratory dedicated to the study of living marine resources on the West Coast. The Fisheries Science Center's mission is to provide the science necessary to conserve and manage living marine resources and their ecosystems, with an emphasis on the Pacific Northwest. The Fisheries Science Center conducts research on protected resources (i.e. salmon and killer whales) and commercially managed groundfish species along the West Coast and provides the best available scientific information to inform management decisions by the West Coast Regional Office, Pacific Fishery Management Council, and other natural resource managers. The Fisheries Science Center houses the nation's laboratory for chemical testing of seafood following oil spills, serves as the West Coast Center for Oceans and Human Health, and responds dynamically to emerging research needs such as climate change and ocean acidification, integrated ecosystem modeling, socio-economic connections, and biological effects of emerging toxins.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund](#)**

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) was established by Congress in 2000 to reverse the declines of Pacific salmon and steelhead by advancing the protection, restoration, and conservation of Pacific salmon and their habitats. The Fund is essential to prevent the extinction of 28 salmon species protected under the Endangered Species Act and also plays a vital role in supporting the economies of local communities from California to Alaska, upholding Tribal Treaty fishing rights and subsistence fishing traditions, and restoring all salmon populations to productive and viable levels along the entire West Coast. Since 2000, approximately 14,571 projects have restored more than 1.15 million acres of salmon habitat, opening over 11,489 miles of streams to spawning fish, with \$1.55 billion in grants leveraging over \$1.78 billion in contributions. In Idaho there are 63 active projects.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [West Coast Region](#)**

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources through scientific research, fisheries management, enforcement, and habitat conservation. The West Coast Region of NOAA Fisheries administers fisheries programs along the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California; and in the vast inland habitats of Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho. We work to conserve, protect, and manage salmon and marine mammals under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act, and sustainably manage West Coast fisheries as guided by the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act. To achieve this mission and advance sound stewardship of these resources, we work closely with tribes, local, state and federal agencies, our stakeholders, and partners to find science-based solutions to complex ecological issues.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#)**

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency, property values and quality of life. In Idaho, the Program is currently working to restore natural resources in cases including the Blackbird Mine hazardous waste site.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)**

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Seattle, Washington serving the Northwest region – Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

**National Weather Service - [NEXRAD \(WSR-88D\) Systems](#)**

NEXRAD is used to warn the people of the United States about dangerous weather and its location. This radar technology allows meteorologists to warn the public to take shelter with more notice than ever before. The NEXRAD network provides significant improvements in severe weather and flash flood warnings, air traffic safety, flow control for air traffic, resource protection at military bases, and management of water, agriculture, forest, and snow removal. NEXRAD radar has a range of up to 250 nautical miles, and can provide information about wind speed and direction, as well as the location, size, and shape of precipitation. There are 159 operational NEXRAD radar systems deployed throughout the United States and overseas, of which two are in Idaho.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems Stations](#)**

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are 13 ASOS stations in Idaho.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program Sites](#)**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The

data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals' energy bills monthly. There are 145 COOP sites in Idaho.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters](#)**

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety. NWR is a public service provided by the NWS and includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, nearby coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are 14 NWR transmitters in Idaho.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for [Zero Waste Week](#)**

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

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**NOAA In Your State** is managed by [NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) and maintained with information provided by NOAA's Line, Corporate, and Staff Offices. Questions about specific programs or offices should be directed to the NOAA Line, Corporate, or Staff Office listed.

More information for those offices may be found at [NOAA.gov](#).

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